

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: John E. Ramsey

Examiner:

Serial No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed:

Date: September 22, 2003

For: **VEHICLE FRAME HAVING AIR TANK CROSS MEMBER**

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

This invention relates to a tank for containing compressed air for supplying the air to one or more pneumatically-operated components, devices, or systems of a heavy-duty vehicle such as a tractor-trailer or straight truck, also serves as part of the structure of the frame or subframe of the vehicle. The frame or subframe includes a pair of spaced-apart, parallel, elongated and longitudinally extending main members. One or more of the tanks serve as interconnecting cross members of the frame or subframe structure. Each tank/cross member generally extends between and is perpendicular to the main members and is secured to the main members and/or suspension hangers to form a rigid, integrated frame or subframe structure having reduced weight, yet which is capable of reacting the loads placed on the structure during operation of the vehicle.

As authorized and encouraged under 37 C.F.R. §1.197-1.99, Applicants hereby cite as a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the following patents and/or documents, copies enclosed, which the Examiner should consider with respect to the above-identified United States Patent Application.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS			
U.S. Patent No.	Date	Inventor/Owner	
5,642,896	July 1, 1997	Pierce et al.	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS			
PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	INVENTOR/OWNER
OTHER PRIOR ART			

A copy of each patent is included for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with an ample opportunity to evaluate the same and to arrive at an independent assessment of its materiality, if any, with regard to the examination of the application.

In reviewing the enclosed copies of the above publications, the Examiner is requested to ignore any underscoring or highlighting which may appear because such markings may or may not have any relationship to the subject matter of the above-identified application. The copy being submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement is the best copy available at this time.

An examination of the present application considering the above documents is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCKINGHAM, DOOLITTLE & BURROUGHS, LLP



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<p>Substitute for form 1449/PTO</p> <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b></p> <p><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	
		Filing Date	
		First Named Inventor	John E. Ramsey
		Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	HEND-AV

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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